

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated March 26, 2008, claims 1 and 12 are amended. Claims 2-4 and 7-10 were previously cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. The amendments are supported by, at a minimum, page 5, lines 2-10 of the present application. Claims 1, 5-6, and 11-13 are now active in this application. Claims 1 and 12 are independent.

Claims 1, 5-6, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,828,780 (Suzuki et al.), and in view of U.S. Patent 5,884,120 (Ito et al.), and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,627,995 (Miller et al.).

Independent claim 1 recites, in part:

a determiner for determining whether or not image data on said each page are within a color reproduction range of the output device, wherein the determining determines a number of results equal to the number of the plural pages;

a decision controller for deciding parameters to be used for color correction for the job based on the results; and

a color compressing controller for compressing uniformly all of said plural pages using the same parameters which are decided for the job so as to supply the processed data to the output device.

In order to establish *prima facie* obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. Further, “rejections on obviousness grounds cannot be sustained by mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some articulated reasoning with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.” *In re Kahn*, 441 F. 3d 977, 988 (Fed. Cir. 2006). At a minimum, the cited prior art references do not disclose (expressly or inherently) or suggest the above recited highlighted (bolded) element.

The Office Action, at pages 3 and 4, asserts that all of the elements of claim 1 are allegedly disclosed by the combination of Suzuki, Ito, and Miller.

However, Suzuki, at Abstract, merely states “input color image data,” and does not even address the issue of processing a job with multiple pages. Specifically, Suzuki does not teach or suggest **“determining whether or not image data on said each page are within a color reproduction range of the output device, wherein the determining determines a number of results equal to the number of the plural pages,”** as required by claim 1.

Ito, at FIG. 8, merely discloses creating an output image with colored or mono portions, and does not determine whether or not image data on each page are within a color reproduction range of the output device. Thus, Ito does not teach or suggest **“determining whether or not image data on said each page are within a color reproduction range of the output device, wherein the determining determines a number of results equal to the number of the plural pages,”** as required by claim 1.

Miller, at column 23, lines 23-45, merely discloses compressing uniformly a plurality of pages. Thus, Miller does not teach or suggest **“determining whether or not image data on said each page are within a color reproduction range of the output device, wherein the determining determines a number of results equal to the number of the plural pages,”** as required by claim 1.

Thus, at a minimum, the combination of Suzuki, Ito, and Miller fails to teach or suggest the forgoing element, and therefore claim 1 is allowable over the cited art.

Independent claim 12 recites in part:

determining whether or not image data on said each page are within a color reproduction range of the output device, wherein the determining determines a number of results equal to the number of the plural pages; and

deciding parameters to be used for color correction for the job based on the results; and
compressing uniformly all of said plural pages using the same parameters which are decided for the job so as to supply the processed data to the output device.

Thus, Applicants submit that independent claim 12 is allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1.

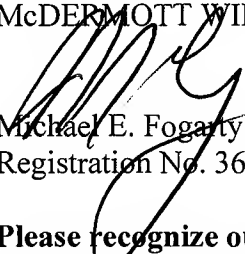
Thus, as independent claims 1 and 12 are allowable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 5, 6, 7, and 13 are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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